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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /103 W
---------- 055007
P R 141230 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4083
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
CDR JCRC NKP THAI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: SEARCH FOR MIA' S IN LAOS: MEETING WITH LPF SECRETARY GENERAL PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

REF: VIENTIANE 3576

1. MAY 11 EDITION LAO LANGUAGE XAT LAO REPORTED REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PHOUMI VONGVICHIT CONCERNING MY DEMARC K TO HIM ON MAY 10 REGARDING U. S. MIA' S. ARTICLE STATES THAT DURING RECENT LUNCHEON PHOUMI VOLUNTEERED THAT A HIGH- RANKING AMERICAN MET WITH HIM TO REQUEST PERMISSION FOR TRAVEL TO LPF- CONTROLLED ZONES IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR MISSING AMERICANS, IN THE EVENT THERE ARE ANY, AND TO RETURN THEIR BODIES TO THEIR NATIVE LAND.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES BY STATING THAT PHOUMI INFORMED THE AMERICAN THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE HIM THIS AUTHORIZATION AND ADDED THAT THE AMERICANS ARE BOTHERING PEOPLE CONCERNING THE DEAD MORE THAN
FOR THE LIVING. PHOUMI CLAIMS TO HAVE TOLD HIS CALLER THAT ONE OUGHT TO THINK MORE OF THE LIVING LAO WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. HE THEREFORE REJECTED THE REQUEST OF THE
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AMERICAN.

3. ABOVE STORY, IF RELATING AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF PHOUMI' S REMARKS, IS A DISTORTED VERSION OF WHAT OCCURRED DURING MY CALL AT LPF HEADQUARTERS MAY 10 WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL. PHOUMI' S REMARKS
WERE REPORTEDLY MADE TO MEO DEPUTY LY TOU YIA WOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6-12 REFLECT A SLIGHT LESSENING
OF VIOLENCE IN MR 4. 322 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED COMPARED TO 385 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE 188 KILLED, 723 WOUNDED, AND 31 MISSING. BY COMPARISON, DURING THE HEAVY FIGHTING OF APRIL 29- MAY 5, RVNAF SUFFERED 281 KILLED AND 921 WOUNDED. COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR LAST WEEK WERE 307 KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED, DOWN SOMEWHAT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEKS' S 353 DEAD.
3. COL ROBERT SCREATON, REGION VI ICCS CANADIAN DELEGATE, TOLD A VICE CONSUL IN MY THO MAY 8 THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT CANADA WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE ICCS AT THE END OF JUNE. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO RETURN TO OTTAWA FOR SIX MONTHS. COL SCREATON IS ASKING HIS GOVERNMENT TO ROTATE DELEGATES EVERY SIX MONTHS IN ORDER TO BUILD UP A RESERVE OF YOUNG OFFICERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATING WITH COMMUNISTS. COMMENT: COL SCREATON IS NOT KNOWN TO BE WELL INFORMED ON AMB GAUVIN' S OR EX- STAFF THINKING. END COMMENT.
4. DURING A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MAY 11, MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI, MR 4 COMMANDER, REMINDED PROVINCE CHIEFS AND DIVISION COMMANDERS THAT
GENERAL ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD SOMETIME BETWEEN AUGUST AND THE END
OF THE YEAR, IN PREPARING FOR THIS EVENTUALITY. NGHI ORDERED PC' S TO INCREASE ATTENTION TO VCI LIQUIDATION; RE- ALLOCATE RF/ PF SLOTS TO PROVINCES WITH AN ADEQUATE RECRUITING BASE AND A DIFFICULT SECURITY SITUATION; FURTHER RVNAF POLITICAL TRAINING; EMPHASIZE PSDF AND APPOINT PSDF LEADERS; PUNISH CORRUPT LOCAL OFFICIALS; AND FURTHER RESETTLEMENT
E E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP THAI
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